

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 OFA-01 AGR-05 INT-05

COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 EB-07 OES-03 FEA-01 SNM-02

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /112 W

----- 067436

R 170910Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEK #48

1. NE WIN ON THE ROAD AGAIN? (CONF)

BURMA AIRWAY'S SOLE 727 WILL BE OUT OF COMMERCIAL SERVICE IN LATE JANUARY, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT NE WIN IS CONSIDERING ANOTHER TRIP ABROAD. DESTINATION IS AS YET UNKNOWN ALTHOUGH AIR-
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CRAFT MAY BE HEADING "TO THE WEST", WHICH, IN BURMESE PARLANCE

COULD INCLUDE EASTERN EUROPE.

2. FOREIGN VISITORS (LOU)

LAOTIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, LANDED FOR AN HOUR AT RANGOON AIRPORT DECEMBER 13 ENROUTE TO HAVANA. HE WAS MET BY GUB DEPUTY PRIMIN U LWIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE; INTERESTINGLY, ALSO ON HAD TO GREET HIM WERE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND THE DRV CHARGE'. FORTHCOMING VISITORS INCLUDE MALAYSIAN PRIMIN RAZAK LATER THIS MONTH (WEEKA 47, ITEM 2), AND IN JANUARY THAI GENERAL KRIANGSAK (AS YET UNANNOUNCED) AND SRI LANKA PRIMIN MRS. BANDARANAIKE, THE LATTER ON A FIVE NATION SEA TOUR.

3. CPSU VISIT (UNCLAS)

THE VISITING SOVIET CP DELEGATION LED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER IVAN BODYUL (WEEKA 47, ITEM 13) IS TOURING BURMA AND RECEIVING HEAVYFIONT PAGE (BUT NO EDITORIAL) PRESS COVERAGE. PUBLICITY ABOUT SOVIET VISIT IS OFFSET SOMEWHAT BY ON-GOING EDITORIAL COMMENT AND FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS OF PRESIDENT NE WIN'S RECENT VISIT TO PEKING. BSPP JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY THAUNG KYI HOSTED DINNER FOR DELEGATES BUT TO DATE, IT HAS NOT MET WITH NE WIN.

4. ALLEGED BURMA NAVY ATTACK ON THAI TRAWLERS (UNLAS)

HEAVY PUBLICITY IN BANGKOK ALLEGING BURMESE NAVY SINKING OF A THAI FISHING TRAWLER (WEEKA 47, ITEM 9) HAS PROVOKED LITTLE REACTION WITHIN BURMESE MILITARY. THEY CONTINUE TO DENY THAT ANY VESSELS SUNK AND WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE ALLEGATION.

5. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

JAPANESE-OWNED AODC, AFTER ENCOUNTERING VERY DIFFICULT DRILLING CONDITIONS, HAS SET PLUGS IN ITS WELL IN BLOCK A-3 AT ABOUT 7,500 FEET AND IS ABOUT TO TEST TWO TIGHT SAND FORMATIONS ENCOUNTERED AT HIGHER LEVELS IN WELL. WELL WILL PROBABLY BE SHUT DOWN IN EARLY JANUARY AND WORK ON NEW WELL BEGUN IN SAME BLOCK. JAPANESE ALSO HAVING TROUBLE WITH OTHER WELL IN BLOCK A-4; DRILL STRING IS REPORTEDLY STUCK AT 7,038 FEET. ESSO CONTINUES TO DRILL IN BLOCK M-1, HAVING REACHED 9,000 FOOT LEVEL. PRESS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER

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14 THAT CONSTRUCTION OF 26 MILE PIPELINE FROM MANN FIELD (WEEKA 43) COMMENCED OCTOBER 31 WITH TARGETED COMPLETION DATE OF DECEMBER 31. PIPELINE WILL TRANSPORT OIL FROM MANN FIELD TO IRRAWADDY RIVER PORT OF SHWELAWIN REPLACING CURRENT PORT TERMINAL OF HTAUKSHABIN WHICH IS AT TIMES TOO SHALLOW FOR USE.

6. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS (UNCLAS)

LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE POLICE ANTI-NARCOTICS UNITS HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE OVER THE PAST WEEKS AROUND THE COUNTRY. A TOTAL OF 16 OFFENDERS WERE ARRESTED IN EIGHT SEPARATE ACTIONS. OVER 20,000 KYAT WORTH OF NUMBER FOUR HEROIN WAS SEIZED AND 8,000 KYAT WORTH OF RAW OPIUM AND A NUMBER OF NEEDLES AND SYRINGES WERE ALSO CONFISCATED.

OSBORN

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